

**Public Comment Sheet  
In the Matter of the Application  
For a Certificate of Need and a Route Permit  
For a 115/161 kV High Voltage Transmission Line  
From Chisago Substation to Apple River Substation**

**LINDSTROM, MN**

1. Proposed power lines will severely impact Lindstrom's single most tourism attraction and community identification icon – the Swedish coffee pot water tower. Tourists would no longer be able to photograph the water tower without power lines interfering with the photograph.  
  
Lindstrom's primary industry is tourism. Therefore, it is imperative that the power lines not interfere with our tourist attractions.
2. Proposed power lines will greatly impact the quaint appearance of Lindstrom's Central Business District by "uglying" the shopping district that brings tourists and shoppers into the area. Lindstrom struggles economically because our many lakes impede our ability to find enough suitable land for an industrial park. Therefore, Lindstrom's Comprehensive Plan points to the fact that a tourism based economy that capitalizes on view scapes and lakes is how Lindstrom will survive franchise competition to the east and the west. Keeping Lindstrom "cute" is essential to our survival.
3. Lindstrom's growth is due to the fact that we have preserved a small town look and feel. The proposed lines will run directly through the heart of "America's Little Sweden". This would have a significant affect on declining population growth – a population that has typically sought us out for our quaint, small-town atmosphere.
4. Lindstrom is expected to open up the Hwy 8 roadbed for upgrades. A possible solution would be to bury the lines under the current Hwy 8 alignment at the time of construction (expected about 2010).
5. Proposed placement would put power poles on several private homeowners properties as well as the post office, a bank, etc. Why should Lindstrom have to give up properties for a commodity to be exported and not for the direct benefit to the community.
6. Lindstrom's culture is based on small town environment. The powerlines would surely bring negative changes to that culture. Preserving a look and feel from the past would not be possible with large power line bases on the sidewalks of our shopping district and tall towers with big lines overhead.

7. While studies exist which indicate that health issues should be a concern, studies also exist to refute this concern. Conclusive or not, the general public has a grave concern and belief that known or yet unknown health risks do exist and therefore do not want to live or work in close proximity to the lines. Existing properties will be greatly devaluated and may even be abandoned for later condemnation. We have photographs of buildings sitting at the base of such power poles, abandoned (unable to sell), boarded up and falling down. This is not what Lindstrom wants for their downtown.

In Summary:

Small towns everywhere struggling to keep their identities as small family owned and operated businesses compete against big box industry. Lindstrom has a rich cultural past. Now 200 years old, we are still connected to that past through a desire to remain connected through preservation and thoughtful development practices. Our survival depends on tourism. The proposed power lines put Lindstrom at risk to achieve our economic goals.

Submitted by:

Stacy Pearson

13186 – 295<sup>th</sup> St.

Lindstrom, MN 55045

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